



Dkt. No. 96700/341

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Vadiraja Murthy and Edward R. Burns  
Serial No. : 08/746,635  
Filed : November 13, 1996  
For : METHOD FOR DETECTING HEMOLYSIS  
Examiner : Gailene Gabel  
Group Art Unit : 1641

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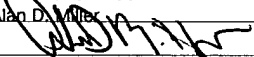
**PRELIMINARY COMMUNICATION AND**  
**PETITION FOR A THREE MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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Date of Deposit: February 13, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name: Alan D. Miller  
Signature: 

A Final Office Action was issued on August 22, 2003 in connection with the above-identified application. On November 4, 2003, applicants timely filed an Amendment in response to the August 22, 2003 Final Office Action. An Advisory Action was issued on November 24, 2003. Applicants herewith petition for a three month extension of time in which to file a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114. The fee for a small entity for filing a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is \$385.00 and the fee for a three month extension of time is \$475.00. Accordingly, a check in the amount of \$860.00 is enclosed. With a three month extension of time, the deadline for filing a Request for Continued Examination is February 22, 2004. Accordingly, this Preliminary Communication and Request for Continued Examination are being timely filed.

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